

# **Clean Air Act, a public health law**

May, 1, 2017

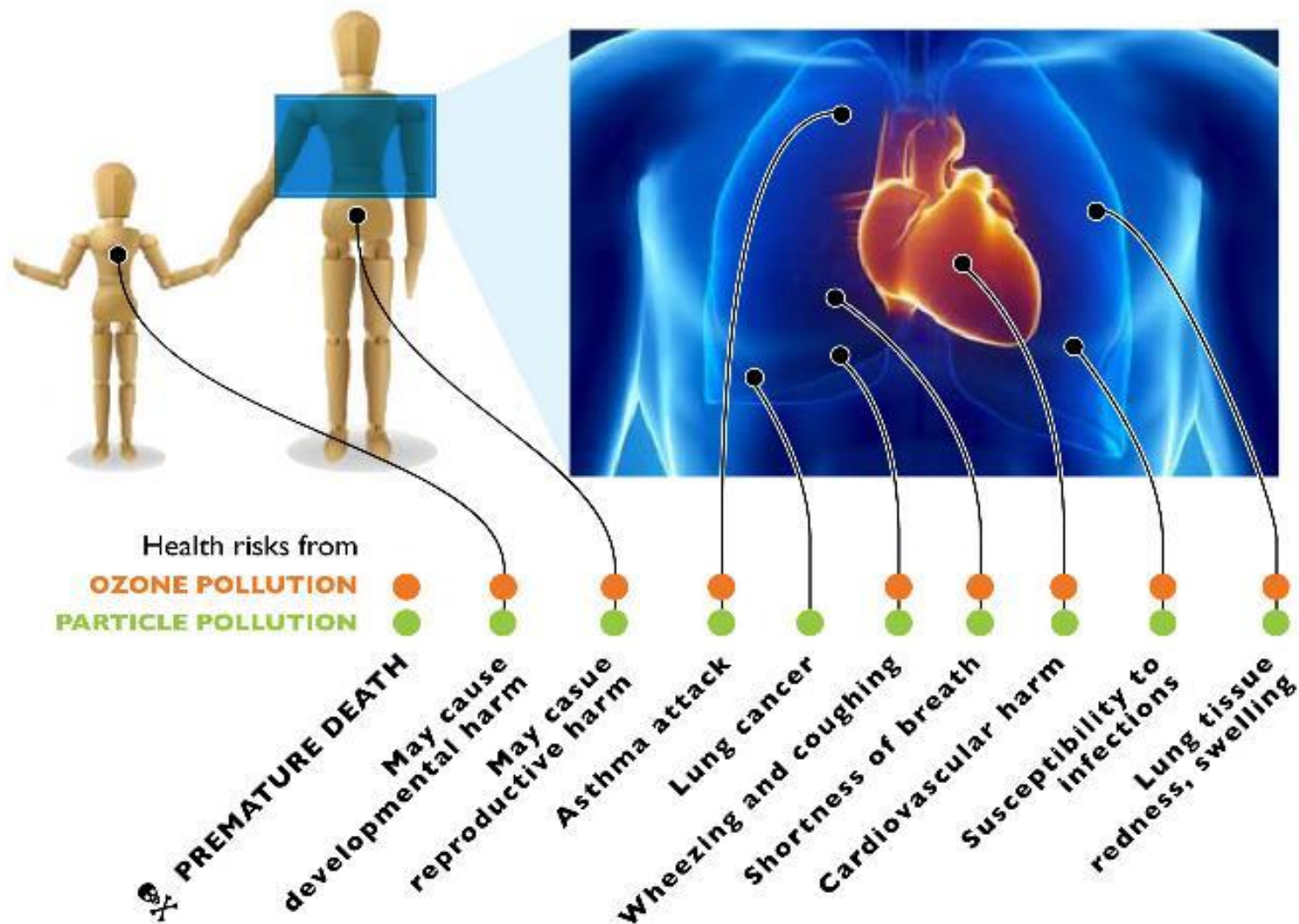
## **National Association of Clean Air Agencies**

**Paul G. Billings**

**Senior Vice President Advocacy**

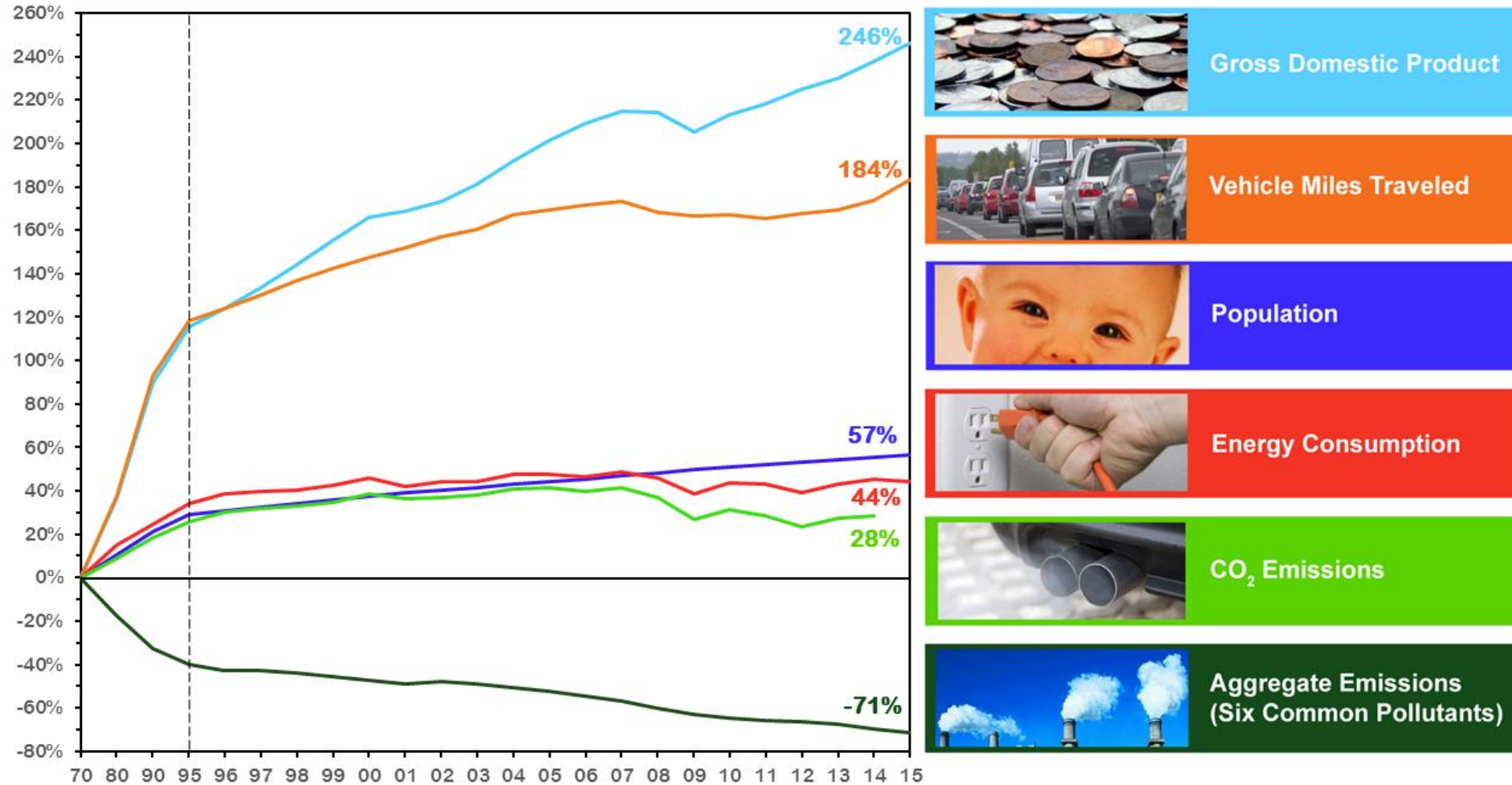
# Health Effects of Ozone and Particle Pollution

**Ozone and particle pollution can shorten life.**



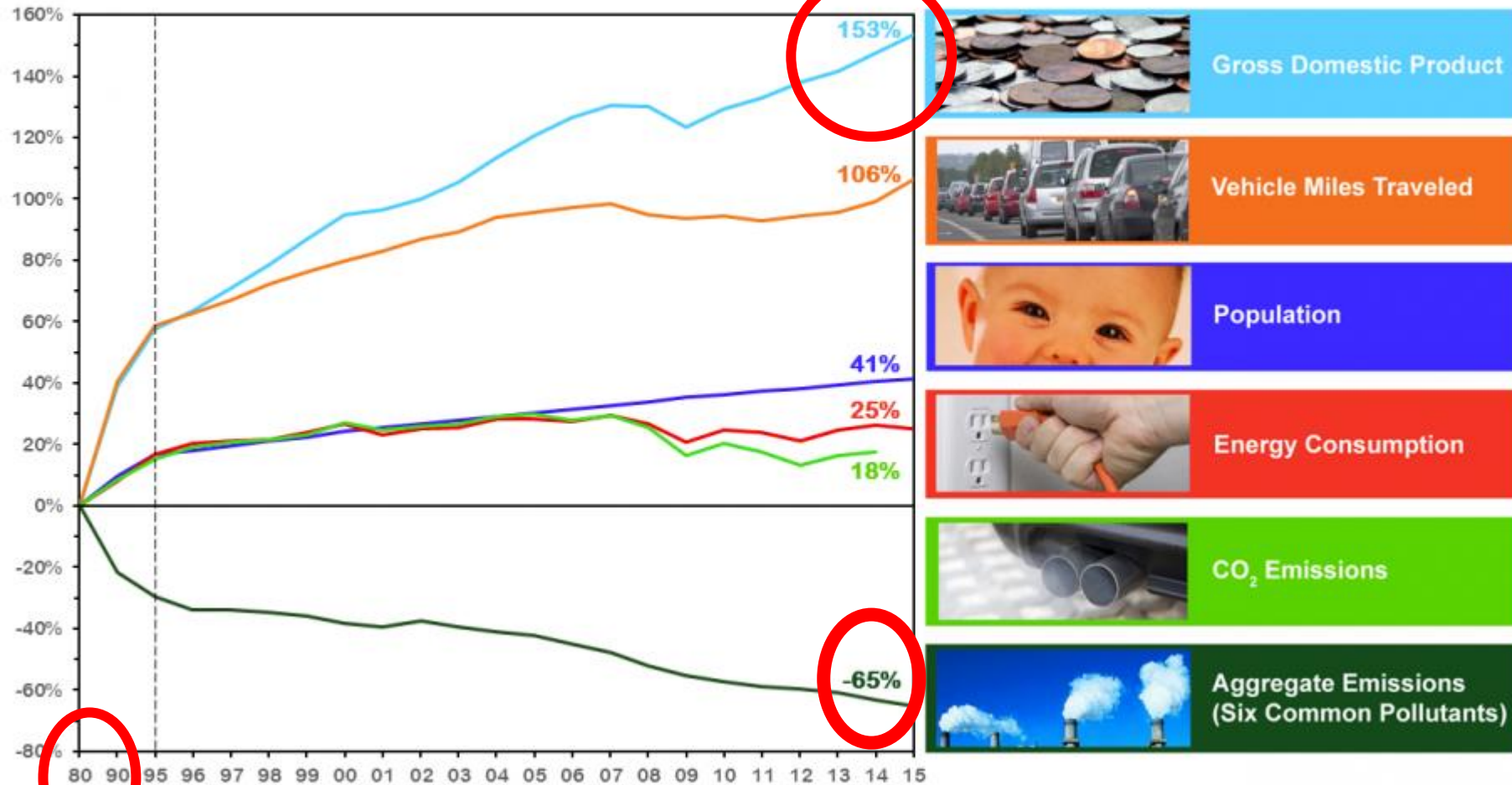
# The Clean Air Act works!

## Comparison of Growth Areas and Emissions, 1970-2015



# The Clean Air Act with Bill Becker

Comparison of Growth Areas and Emissions, 1980-2015



# Our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Report



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## STATE OF THE AIR 2017



## The News in “State of the Air” 2017:

- The Clean Air Act has driven **major progress** in the fight for healthy air:
  - Lower year-round particle pollution
  - Fewer high ozone days
- 125 million Americans live in counties that earned an F for ozone or particle pollution, ***down from 166 million, 2012-2014.***

## The News in “State of the Air” 2017:

- More work is clearly needed to protect health:
  - 18 million people live in areas that **got all Fs**
  - **Spikes in short-term particle pollution**, due in part to climate change pose an **alarming threat**.

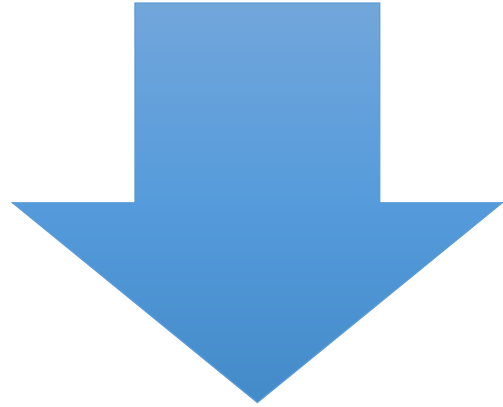
# Fewer days with high Ozone



- 20 of the 25 cities most polluted by ozone had fewer unhealthy days in 2013-2015
  - 12 had their fewest days ever
- 4 cities had more days; one remained unchanged

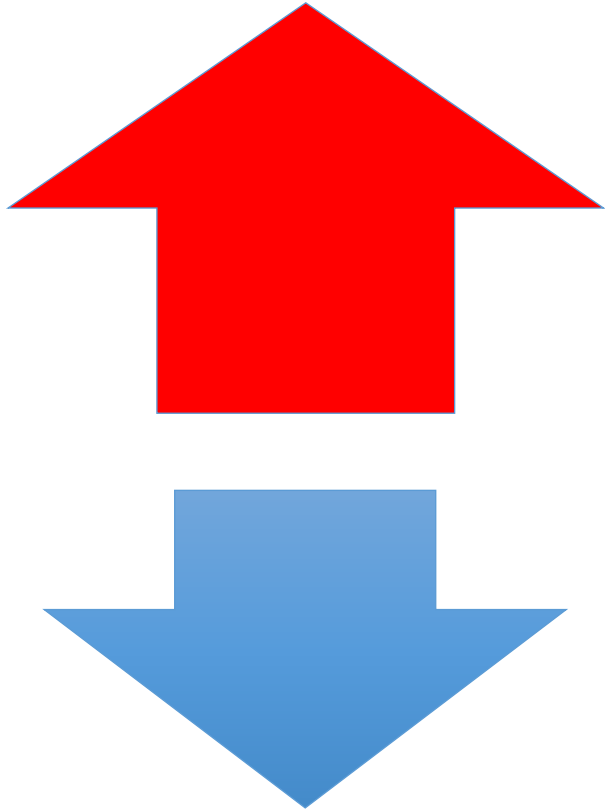


# Less Particle Pollution Year-round



- 15 of the 25 cities most polluted by particles year-round had improved annual levels in 2013-2015
  - 12 cities saw their lowest levels ever
- 8 cities had increased year-round levels; two remained unchanged

# More spikes in particle pollution, *again*



- **15 of the cities most polluted by short-term levels had more high particle days in 2013-2015**
  - **8 had their worst averages on record**
- **7 of the cities on the list did better than in 2012-2014**
  - **1 had its lowest average on record**
- **Two were unchanged**

# Reasons for improvement—Clean Air Act

## **The Clean Air Act tools at work:**

- ✓ **New emissions control equipment on coal-fired power plants**
- ✓ **Retirement of coal plants and increased use of renewables**
- ✓ **Retirement of fleets of old, dirty diesel trucks, buses, trains, barges, tractors and heavy equipment**



## Reason for more particles?

- ✓ **Weather changes, including warmer temperatures, less rainfall**
  - Drought, forest fires, grassfires, dust
- ✓ **Weather inversions trapping particles**
- ✓ **High woodstove smoke**
  - Wintertime episodes



# Climate Change Harms Health

## Greenhouse Gases

- Trap heat in the atmosphere
- Co-pollutants directly harm health

## Warmer Global Temperatures

- Heat, Drought
- Air Pollution
- Extreme Weather
- Many more

## Health Impacts

- Heat related deaths
- Asthma Attacks
- Heart attacks, strokes
- Allergic reactions
- Spread of diseases

# Advocacy Goals for 2017 – Defend CAA Implementation



- **EPA Budget**
  - **STAG Grants**
  - **Compliance**
  - **Enforcement**

# Advocacy Goals for 2017 – Legislative Defense



- **Defend the Clean Air Act from attacks**
  - **Smoggy Skies Act HR 806/S 263**
  - **So-called Regulatory Reform**
  - **Riders**
  - **Pre-emption**



# Advocacy Goals for 2017 – Legal Defense



- **Defend the Clean Air Rules**
  - **Ozone NAAQS**
  - **Clean Power Plan**
  - **MATS**

# Advocacy Goals for 2017 – Regulatory Defense



- **Defend Clean Air Rules**
  - **Oil & Gas clean up**
  - **Clean Cars Rules**
  - **Rules in litigation**

# Advocacy Goals for 2017 and beyond – More Pollution Cleanup



- **Implement the Clean Air Act**
  - **Truck Standards**
  - **Locomotive Tier 5**
  - **Power Plants**
  - **Oil & Gas**
  - **PM NAAQS**
  - **126 Petition**